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3 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, TSS/APD

SUBJECT : Evaluation of the Copy Stand for the
Minox Camera

1. Several of the subject units have been sent to the field for operational use. Written evaluations were requested. In one case an evaluation has been received; however, there has not been any reply from the other cases probably due to insufficient time for such tests. TSS/PD does not know the location of the other units since that action was taken before TSS/PD was in existence.

2. Relative to the unit on which an evaluation was verbally given, we were informed the copy device worked very well. We were told hundreds of copy negatives were made using this equipment where no other such equipment could have been used; that all of the negatives obtained were printable. The Staff personnel involved were highly pleased with the results obtained.

3. In our Training Branch, however, several difficulties have been encountered in the use of this unit. One difficulty has been with the chucks which secure the legs to the camera holding device. In spite of instructions to the contrary the chucks have been tightened excessively making it very difficult to loosen them to either secure or loosen the extendable legs. The small set screws have tended to work loose and this requires a jewelers screw driver which may not be readily available. In one case the unit was sent back to the contractor because one of the securing springs on one of the extendable legs broke or became loose so that it would no longer hold the leg in its extended position. These instances are mentioned for future consideration in case other models might be considered at some future date. It should be realized that in the Training Branch many different people handle all the photographic items we have for such use and that an exceptionally good work out is given each item. Where any such unit is issued to one person for his own use it should receive more consideration and better care.

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4. [] have discussed the advisability of adapting this Minox copy stand so that it would cover American and European legal size documents. This would mean the stand would have to be constructed so as to cover 8½" x 11", for the American size, and would stand 21" high. DIN A 3 is the European size. This is equal to approximately 11.7" x 16.5". Such sizes were not deemed advisable in discussions prior to the building of the first prototype because of several reasons: (a) resolution of the film might not be adequate due to improper exposure and development, (b) the pitch of the legs as attached to the present camera holding part of the copy stand would have been most difficult to include in the single design. The success obtained with the current stand, however, has been such we now wonder if a separate model might be constructed for use with the larger document sizes mentioned. This is a subject for future discussion with TSS/APD.

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5. We wish to express our appreciation to TSS/APD for the work they have done on this unit. It is felt it will be a valuable tool for operational use in many instances.

[]
Chief, TSS/Photographic Division

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